

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

SB0001	First Reading	42
SB0002	First Reading	42
SB0003	First Reading	42
SB0004	First Reading	42
SR0001	Adopted	33
SR0001	Resolution Offered	32
SR0002	Adopted	34
SR0002	Resolution Offered	32
SR0003	Adopted	39
SR0003	Resolution Offered	38
SR0004	Adopted	40
SR0004	Resolution Offered	38
SR0005	Adopted	41
SR0005	Resolution Offered	38

Senate to Order-Governor Rod Blagojevich	1
Committee on Escort	1
Invocation-Father James Flynn	2
Presentation of Colors	2
Pledge of Allegiance	2
Presentation by Alexandria Sterling	2
Appointment of Temporary Officer	2
Letter from the State Board of Elections	2
Oath of Office-Justice Charles E. Freeman	3
Roll Call of Senators of the 95th GA	4
Nominations for Senate President	4
Nominations Closed	12
Roll Call for Senate President	13
Justice Freeman Administers Oath-Senate President	14
Remarks by Governor Rod Blagojevich	15
Remarks by President Jones	17
Minority Leader Declared	23
Remarks by Minority Leader Watson	24
Recitation by Jonathan Sterling	30
Benediction-Rabbi Leonard Matanky	31
Committee on Escort	31
Message from the President	31
Message from the Senate Republican Leader	32
Senate Stands at Ease/Reconvenes	32
Committee Reports	32
Letter from the President	38

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Letter from Minority Leader Watson	38
Senate Stands at Ease/Reconvenes	39
Committee Reports	39
Adjournment	43

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The Senate will come to order. Will the Members and our guests please be seated? Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois reads in part as follows: On the first day of the January session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, the Governor shall convene the Senate to elect from the membership a President of the Senate as presiding officer. Representatives of the press have been -- asked for permission to record these proceedings. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. The following Senators will escort members of the Judiciary into the Chamber: Senator Forby, Senator Kimberly Lightford, Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Senator Randy Hultgren, Senator Matt Murphy. And for those of you who don't know, it's Senator Gary Forby. Will the Committee on Escort please report to the rear of the Chamber to escort the distinguished members of the Judiciary into the Chamber? I am pleased to welcome into the Chamber Supreme Court Justices Anne Burke, Charles E. Freeman, and Lloyd A. Karmeier. I am also pleased to recognize other distinguished guests who are here with us today: Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, Auditor General William Holland, former Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General Neil Hartigan, former Senate President Thomas Hynes, former State Senate President Philip Rock, current City of Springfield Mayor Timothy Davlin, newly elected State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis, City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Dr. Wayne Watson, Southern Illinois University President Dr. Glenn Poshard. The invocation will be offered by Father James Flynn of Holy Name of Mary Church in Chicago, Illinois. Father -- Father Flynn will preside and I'd like to ask all of you to please rise.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

FATHER JAMES FLYNN:

(Invocation by Father James Flynn)

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Will the Members and our guests please remain standing for the Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States? The Colors will be presented by the Color Guard Army ROTC from Western Illinois University. Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The Color Guard is now dismissed. It's now my pleasure to welcome Alexandra {sic} (Alexandria) Sterling, who will offer a musical presentation.

MISS ALEXANDRIA STERLING:

(Remarks and Presentation by Alexandria Sterling)

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you, Alexandra {sic}. Let me now hereby appoint the following person as a temporary Senate officer of the 95th General Assembly: Linda Hawker, Secretary of the Senate. The Secretary will now read the Letter of Certification from the State Board of Elections of Senate Members elected on November 7th, 2006, to the 95th General Assembly. Madam Secretary, please read the letter.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A letter from the State Board of Elections, dated December 4, 2006.

Dear Ms. Hawker - Enclosed is a list of individuals who

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

have been elected to serve as Members of the Illinois State Senate in the General Assembly, and have been duly certified by the State Board of Elections at their Board meeting on December 1, 2006.

Sincerely, Mark Mossman, Director of Election Information.

Newly elected Members: District No. 1, Anthony "Tonio" {sic} (Antonio "Tony") Munoz; No. 3, Mattie Hunter; No. 4, Kimberly Lightford; No. 6, John J. Cullerton; No. 7, Carol Ronen; No. 9, Jeffrey M. Schoenberg; No. 10, James A. DeLeo; No. 12, Martin A. Sandoval; No. 13, Kwame Raoul; No. 15, James T. Meeks; No. 16, Jacqueline "Jacqui" Y. Collins; No. 18, Edward D. Maloney; No. 19, M. Maggie Crotty; 21, Jan -- pardon me, Dan Cronin; 22nd District, Michael Noland; 24th District, Kirk W. Dillard; 25, Chris Lauzen; 27th, Matt Murphy; 28th, John J. Millner; 30th, Terry Link; 31, Michael Bond; 33rd, Dan Kotowski; 34th, Dan -- Dave Syverson; 36th, Mike Jacobs; 37th, Dale E. Risinger; 39th, Don Harmon; 40th, Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson; 42nd, Linda Holmes; 43rd, Arthur "A.J." Wilhelmi; 45th, Todd W. Sieben; 46th, David Koehler; 48th, Randall M. "Randy" Hultgren; 49th, Deanna Demuzio; 51st, Frank Watson; 52nd, Michael W. Frerichs; 54th, John O. Jones; 55th, Dale A. Righter; 55th -- pardon me, 57th, James F. Clayborne; and 58th, David Luechtefeld.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Will Justice Charles E. Freeman of the Illinois Supreme Court please come to the Rostrum to administer the Oath of Office to the Members of the Senate? Will the Senators-elect please rise to be sworn into office?  
JUSTICE CHARLES E. FREEMAN:

Would the Senators-elect please raise your right hands,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

repeat after me and insert your names at the proper place? I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of State Senator according to the best of my ability. Congratulations.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Madam Secretary, will you please call the roll of the Senators of the 95th General Assembly?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Althoff, Bomke, Bond, Brady, Burzynski, Clayborne, Collins, Cronin, Crotty, Cullerton, Dahl, DeLeo, Delgado, Demuzio, Dillard, Forby, Frerichs, Garrett, Haine, Halvorson, Harmon, Hendon, Holmes, Hultgren, Hunter, -- Jacobs, John Jones - John Jones, Koehler, Kotowski, Lauzen, Lightford, Link, Luechtefeld, Maloney, Martinez, Meeks, Millner, Munoz, Murphy, Noland, Pankau, Peterson, Radogno, Raoul, Righter, Risinger, Ronen, Rutherford, Sandoval, Schoenberg, Sieben, Silverstein, Sullivan, Syverson, Trotter, Viverito, Watson, Wilhelmi and Mr. President.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you, Madam Secretary, for confirming the presence of a quorum. The next order of business is the election of the Senate President of the 95th General Assembly. In the opinion of the Chair, thirty affirmative votes will be required to elect the President. Nominations are now open. The Chair recognizes Senator Debbie Halvorson for the purpose of placing a name in nomination.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Governor. I proudly rise to nominate Emil Jones for Illinois Senate President. Emil Jones has been a Senate

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

President for the people, the Leader whose trademark is an open-door policy and his ability to work with everybody, no matter how difficult some days may be. He works to find common ground to cultivate harmony. His door is always open. Even if he doesn't agree with you, he'll listen and he'll fight for your right to say it. As the Senate President and as a lawmaker, he has dedicated himself to the most important issues that we face as Legislators: to education, to health care - the people's issues, the issues that matter to working families, the issues that matter to all of us. He has worked for equal pay for equal work. And he has established the first of its kind in the nation, a lottery game called the Ticket for the Cure. The money will benefit breast cancer. And I would be remiss if I did not mention that he also named the first woman Senate Majority Leader in the history of Illinois, just two years ago. Governor, I proudly nominate Emil Jones for President of the Illinois Senate.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Halvorson nominates Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Senate. Senator James Clayborne is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Governor and Members of the Senate and all present - family members present. I, too, want to second -- second the nomination for Emil Jones for President of the Senate. It is truly an honor to do the nomination. I came here almost twelve years ago and my reason for seconding the nomination is based upon the fact that Emil Jones is a true leader - a man of strong character, a man with an open mind that understands the needs of the entire State, whether it's far north in Lake County,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

whether it's Cook County, whether it's Will, St. Clair County, or down in Cairo, Marion County. He's truly a visionary and it's reflected in the many accomplishments that have taken place since I came almost twelve years ago and I'd like to share a few of those with you. In 1995, there were twenty-seven Democrats and thirty-two Republicans. After this last election, there are now thirty-seven Democrats and twenty-two Republicans. In 1995 when I came, there were two Latino Members, and thanks to the remap in -- in 2001, we now have four Latino Legislators. In 1995, there were two African-American women Legislators. Today we have three African-American women. Senator Jones has committed his leadership to making sure that we passed a continuing appropriation for education, making sure each child in the State of Illinois is entitled to and guaranteed a quality education. Under his leadership, as a result, he has increased pupil -- per pupil spending for the school district throughout the State. When I first came in 1995, and -- the Education budget was about 3.7 billion dollars, and in the most recent budget, it's 6.5 billion dollars. Since 1998, we have spent 3.1 billion dollars on school construction as a result of Senator Jones' leadership. Senator Jones has made many accomplishments: increasing the minimum wage - supporting the increase of the minimum wage not once, but twice. He has also made sure that we had equal pay for women and he's been very supportive of ALL KIDS, a program designed by the Governor, as well as prescription drugs. Truly, truly a man of vision. Truly a man of strong character. As you know, I like to tell stories, so I'll tell a brief story. There was an old man that went on a cruise and during the time he was on the cruise, a storm blew up and a lady was standing too close



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

to the rail and she fell over and the old man jumped right in after her and they put ships out and they were able to save both of 'em. That night they had a victory celebration, a hero celebration for the old gentleman. And they got up and they said, "Speech, speech. We want to hear you talk." He said, "Before I talk, I want to find out who pushed me." And truly Emil Jones, as a leader, has pushed all of us to make sure that we maximize the potential that we have, that he gives us the ability to run these committees so that we as Senators can make sure that we do the best for our constituency. So it is my pleasure, and I am very proud to call Emil Jones my friend and to second his nomination. Thank you.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you, Senator Clayborne. Senator Clayborne seconds the nomination of Senator Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Senate. Now I'd like to recognize Senator James DeLeo for the purpose of seconding the nomination. Senator DeLeo.

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very much, Governor. Before I rise to do my seconding nomination, I would just like to congratulate you on behalf of the Senate Democratic Caucus on your installation for Governor for four more years. And, Governor, at your Inaugural Address, you mentioned a very aggressive agenda and I'm going to enjoy spending the summer here together, all of us. I thank you very much, Governor, and I -- and I rise to second the nomination of Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Illinois Senate. And this morning I'd like to talk to you about the man that most people don't even know, man that has tremendous family values, a loyal husband, a loyal father, grandfather and certainly a loyal

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

friend. And I don't know anybody that's more loyal to incumbent Members than Emil Jones. You can ask Barack Obama. You can ask Miguel del Valle. You could ask Deanna Demuzio. This man stands squarely behind his incumbents. He generally cares about the people all over this great State, as evidenced by the legislation that we passed under his leadership. Let's look at some of those things: the Earned Income Tax Credit; what Senator Clayborne mentioned, equal pay for equal work; and under your leadership, Governor, and under the President's leadership not once, but twice, we passed increases for the minimum wage in four years. Education funding increased, early childhood all the way K through twelve. Over the past few years, I had the opportunity to sit in many leadership meetings and, in fact, shared with -- most of you the longest Session in the State's history. Emil Jones was not going to leave Springfield without additional funding for education in 2004. We were in the Governor's Office, seventeen or eighteen days into overtime, and there were many pressures - many, many pressures going on, including the upcoming Democratic National Convention in Boston. During one of those meeting shifts - it was one of those long days; some of our Members thought, ugh, he should cave in, fold his tent, go to Boston - Emil Jones got up from his chair, he said, "To hell with the convention," and started to storm out of the room. I got -- I knew at this point, if the President left the room, we would be there till Labor Day. I got up from my chair and I affectionately grabbed his arm. We were face to face and only I could see the expression on -- the look as stern as I've ever seen it. Then he smiled and winked at me. And twenty-four hours later we had a budget and we were on our way to Boston. He

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

didn't do it for Emil Jones. He didn't do it for the people, the voters in his district. He did it for the schoolchildren of Illinois. President Jones, since he's been President of the Senate, has been compassionate and open, and he will continue in that tradition. After this past November election, this past fall, some of our Members were feeling pretty good about our victories, including myself. President Jones asked us to look at this as an opportunity to invite everybody - Republicans, Independents - to work together to get things done. Governor, in closing, I'd like to quote a colleague of mine and he said, "To have a friend, you must be one." Governor, I'd like to second the nomination of my friend, Emil Jones, for President of the Illinois Senate. Thank you.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator DeLeo seconds the nomination of Senate -- Senator Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Senate. Senator Christine Radogno is recognized for the purpose of placing a name in nomination.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's my privilege today to submit the name of Senator Frank Watson into nomination. As many of you know, Senator Watson has served in this Chamber for twenty-four years and in the House for four years before that. He certainly knows and understands and respects this process. During that time, he's served with a great deal of distinction, with energy and with passion that actually has sometimes been fairly entertaining for all of us, but always, always keeping in mind the needs of the people of this State and his district in particular. But it really takes more to be a leader, and what

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

we're electing today are the leaders of leaders. We are leaders by virtue of the fact that we're here, and the individuals that are selected today need to have additional qualities, and I believe Senator Watson exhibits those qualities and has done so consistently. He's extraordinarily hardworking. He's very accessible. He's fair and he's open-minded, always willing to listen to someone else's input. He's able to bring people together, and most importantly, he offers the people that he leads the chance to maximize their own potential. That's the kind of leadership that's going to take all of us forward and the State of Illinois forward as well. So I would like your support for the nomination of Senator Frank Watson.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Radogno nominates Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. Before I call on the next Senator for a nomination, let me acknowledge the presence of our Comptroller, Dan Hynes, who is here. Dan, why don't you come and take a bow? Your dad's here, don't forget to say hi. Senator Todd Sieben is now recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank you very much, Governor. I, too, proudly rise to second the nomination of Frank Watson for President of the Illinois State Senate. But before I begin, Governor, on behalf of Senate Republicans, let me congratulate you on your reelection and invite you to seek out the input of our Members as well, as we move forward during this Session. Even though our numbers are small, we do not seek to be irrelevant. We want to be part of the process. So, Governor, I stand to second the nomination, and as Senator Radogno has done so beautifully, she has highlighted

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Senator Watson's qualifications to serve as Senate President and I would like to add just a few more. First, his sense of service in this Body has never been about self. In my opinion, he's never had a personal agenda, but rather he's sought to engage others, to encourage others and to empower others. Second, he has always shown the utmost respect for the point of view of each individual Member and has still been able to bring people together to build consensus and unity around difficult and controversial issues. Frank Watson has the institutional knowledge, the integrity and the intellect to lead us through some very difficult days in the history of our State. I believe we all recognize that our next two-year Session will require bold and -- and courageous leadership. During the past four years, we have seen Leader Watson -- Leader Watson's willingness to reach across the aisle to work with President Jones. We have seen his ability to reach across the Rotunda to -- to work with Leader Cross and Speaker Madigan. And we have seen his efforts, Governor, to reach out to you when good public policy needed a bipartisan solution. So, finally, Senator Watson -- and finally, Senator Watson has the passion, the energy and the sense of purpose to not only -- to not only lead us, but to serve us as well, during our next two years as President of the Senate. And for these reasons, Governor, I -- I'm pleased to -- and honored to second the nomination for Frank Watson for President of the Illinois State Senate.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Sieben -- seconds the nomination of Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. Senator Matt Murphy is now recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you. I'm honored that my first opportunity to speak in this historic Chamber is on behalf of a man for whom I have tremendous respect and admiration, my Leader, Senator Frank Watson. I admire Senator Watson for his genuineness, his utter lack of pretense. In this time of poll-driven politics and seemingly endless spin, Senator Watson still wears his heart right where it belongs - out on his Cardinal-red sleeve for all to see. And please understand, I say that as a die-hard Cub fan. In all seriousness, what you see with Frank Watson is what you get. And I think anybody who's spent the last year campaigning in this State can see that the people have lost their faith in Illinois government. It's incumbent upon all of us to win it back. And we can win it back with the type of plain-spoken sincerity and genuine commitment to working together that have been Senator Watson's hallmark in his career here in Springfield. I look forward to working with him and all of you in that vein. And I proudly second his nomination for President. Thank you.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Murphy seconds the nomination of Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. If there are no further nominations, Senator Terry Link is recognized for the purpose of making a motion. Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

...and Ladies and Gentlemen and Members of the Senate. I move that we close the nominations for President of the Senate.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Link has moved that nominations be closed. All those in favor of the motion, indicate by saying Aye. All those

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries and the nominations are closed. The Secretary will call the roll of the Senators. Each Senator should answer the roll by stating one of the names nominated or by voting Present. Please call the roll, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Althoff. Althoff votes Watson. Bomke. Bomke votes Watson. Bond. Bond votes Jones. Brady. Brady votes Watson. Burzynski. Burzynski votes Watson. Clayborne. Clayborne votes Jones. Collins. Collins votes Jones. Cronin. Cronin votes Watson. Crotty. Crotty votes Jones. Cullerton. Cullerton votes Jones. Dahl. Dahl votes Watson. DeLeo. DeLeo votes Jones. Delgado. Delgado votes Jones. Demuzio. Demuzio votes Jones. Dillard. Dillard votes Watson. Forby. Forby votes Jones. Frerichs. Frerichs votes Jones. Garrett. Garrett votes Jones. Haine. Haines {sic} votes Jones. Halvorson. Halvorson votes Jones. Harmon. Harmon votes Jones. Hendon. Hendon votes Jones. Holmes. Holmes votes Jones. Hultgren. Hultgren -- votes Watson. Hunter. Hunter votes Jones. Jacobs. Jacobs votes Jones. John Jones. John Jones votes Watson. Koehler. Koehler votes Jones. Kotowski. Kotowski votes Jones. Lauzen. Lauzen votes Watson. Lightford. Lightford votes Jones. Link. Link votes Jones. Luechtefeld. Luechtefeld votes Watson. Maloney. Maloney votes Jones. Martinez. Martinez votes Jones. Meeks. Meeks votes Jones. Millner. Millner votes Jones. Moving forward. Munoz. If I might correct the record, Senator Millner votes Watson. Munoz. Munoz votes Jones. Murphy. Murphy votes Watson. Noland. Noland votes Jones. Pankau. Pankau votes Watson. Peterson. Peterson votes Watson. Radogno. Radogno

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

votes Watson. Raoul. Raoul votes Jones. Righter. Righter votes Watson. Risinger. Risinger votes Watson. Ronen. Ronen votes Jones. Rutherford. Rutherford votes Watson. Sandoval. Sandoval votes Jones. Schoenberg. Schoenberg votes Jones. Sieben. Sieben votes Watson. Silverstein. Silverstein votes Jones. Sullivan. Sullivan votes Jones. Syverson. Syverson votes Watson. Trotter. Trotter votes Jones. Viverito. Viverito votes Jones. Watson. Watson votes Watson. Wilhelmi. Wilhelmi votes Jones. And Mr. President. Mr. President votes Jones.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The results of the roll call are as follows: Senator Emil Jones, Jr., 37 votes; Senator Frank Watson, 22 votes. Senator Emil Jones, Jr., having received the constitutionally required votes, is hereby declared elected President of the Senate of the 95th General Assembly. Will Senator Jones and Justice Freeman please come to the Rostrum? Justice Freeman -- will Justice Freeman now administer the Oath of Office to Senate President Jones?

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

...President, would you please raise your right hand, repeat after me? I, Emil Jones, Jr.

SENATOR E. JONES:

I, Emil Jones, Jr.

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Do solemnly swear

SENATOR E. JONES:

Do solemnly swear

JUSTICE FREEMAN:



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

That I will support the Constitution of the United States  
SENATOR E. JONES:

That I will support the Constitution of the United States  
JUSTICE FREEMAN:

And the Constitution of the State of Illinois  
SENATOR E. JONES:

And the Constitution of the State of Illinois  
JUSTICE FREEMAN:

And I will faithfully discharge the duties  
SENATOR E. JONES:

And I will faithfully discharge the duties  
JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Of the Office of Senate President  
SENATOR E. JONES:

Of the Office of Senate President  
JUSTICE FREEMAN:

To the best of my ability.  
SENATOR E. JONES:

To the best of my ability.  
JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Congratulations.  
PRESIDENT JONES:

Thank you... Yeah, thank you very much. Thank you very much.  
Governor, while you are here - Governor - it's been such a great  
pleasure in working with you for the past four years. You --  
would you like to have a few brief remarks prior to my beginning?  
GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you. Thank you. I'll be brief. I just wanted to say  
a couple of things about how important today is. I've had a

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

chance to get to know Senate President Jones for the last couple of years - the last four years. Knew him a little bit before that when I was a State Rep. He was a big player then and I was a backbencher then, then I became Governor and really got to know Senator Jones in our day-to-day efforts to do things for people. And I would pretty much sum him up by what just happened recently when the voters made their decision back on November the 7th. My night was, fortunately for me, kind of an early one and I got home and learned that the Senate Democrats, under Senate President Jones, were able to add another five Members on this side and five fewer on that side and I called him up to congratulate him and what he told me I think pretty much tells you who he is and what he's about. And what he didn't say tells you who he is and what he's about. He didn't say to me, well, we won and now it's time for us Democrats who just won five extra seats to stick it to the Republicans. He didn't say that. That was not something that was on his mind. He didn't say how happy he was to be able to win the battle between the two Leaders, which sometimes happens in legislative bodies. Sometimes it's Senate President Jones on one side and Senator Watson on the other. He didn't say as a Cub fan, like he and I are, that, well, Frank, won the World Series with the Cardinals, which is what he likes, and we Cub fans were second to last again. That's nothing new for us. He didn't say, I got him back; they're World Champions, we were second to last. He didn't say that. What he said to me was interesting and it was in the moment of the celebration of the night when it was clear that it was going to be a big night for the Senate Democrats. He said, "Now, Governor, we can do more to improve health care. We can do more

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

to fund our schools and improve our schools. We can do more for the people of Illinois." It's about service to the public. And when you're the Governor, you get a chance from time to time to meet interesting people, and I had a chance to have dinner in my first term with a historian named Doris Kearns Goodwin, who's written books and biographies on great leaders like Franklin Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, as well as books about baseball, being a Brooklyn Dodgers' fan growing up as a little girl with her dad. And I asked her a question, "Franklin Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, how would you stack 'em up? And if you were to pick one, who was the one you would pick?" And she, without any hesitation, said, "Abraham Lincoln." And I asked her, "Why?" And she said, "Because Abraham Lincoln was both a great man and a good man." And I think about that characterization of Abraham Lincoln and I think about Senate President Jones, the man I've gotten to know over the last several years. I believe he is a great man, but more importantly, he is a good man and he is determined to do good. And with that, I want to congratulate you, Emil, on a big day and a historic day for Illinois.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Yeah, thank you, Governor. I want to thank my wife, Lorrie, as she makes her way back here, and all my family, Emil III, Emil Alvarez, John, Nikki, for being with me today. I want to thank all our guests that are here today: Governor Blagojevich, Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, the Auditor General Bill Holland, Supreme Court Justices Freeman, Karmeier and -- I missed one. No, just two, 'cause Anne Burke didn't make it. And also my good friend and my President, Phil Rock; former Senate President Tom Hynes; former Attorney General Neil Hartigan; Wayne Watson,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Chancellor -- Dr. Wayne Watson, Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago; my good friend, former Member of this Body, the President of SIU University, Glenn Poshard; and all the families of the Members, especially the families of the new Members. Let me say welcome to the Illinois Senate. Before I really begin my remarks, I would -- I would like to thank, once again, the many workers, as well as the architects and the staff who put their heart and soul into the restoration of this beautiful Chamber. It's a glorious tribute to our history here in this great State of Illinois. I want to thank my colleagues for their support and their confidence as we begin the historic 95th Session of the Illinois General Assembly. Today's celebration -- honey, you can sit down. She want to give me orders, you know - my wife. Today's celebration signals more than change, more than a fresh beginning, it signal -- signals a real opportunity - an opportunity to work together. To the -- to the older Members who are returning, we've had the opportunity to work together on many, many key issues in the State of Illinois and it is my hope that we will collectively continue to work on the opportunity to pass legislation that can be so significant that it's going to impact the people of this great -- and our schoolchildren across the State of Illinois. The new Members who are here today, who bring to us fresh ideas, I appreciate your hard work, your expectations, the job that you have done. I see some Members who got elected as Democrats are sitting on that side of the aisle, but -- but I want them to come on the other side of the aisle, do some things. But I -- I appreciate your enthusiasm coming here to work in a bipartisan manner to do good for the people of the State of Illinois. Working together, we can accomplish many

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

things in the upcoming Session. We can do the things that the people expect us to do. We must bring about real change to the outrageous, inequitable system that funds our schools. On the -- on the back of today's program is a quote from the Constitution. The Constitution said, "The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education." It is our duty. We must provide the leadership. And I believe in this Chamber we are going to provide that leadership. Yeah. Governor, I want to thank you for the job that you've done over the past four years to increase the funding for early childhood education and the increased funding for elementary and secondary education. You are on the right track, but we must go further. We must reform the way we fund education. We must put more dollars into our educational system, 'cause when we invest in our children in the -- the State of Illinois, it will enhance job opportunities and economic development when we make that -- crucial investment. Those are the things I think we in this Body should do. Senator Watson, you and I have had the opportunity to work on education reform in the past. For the first time in many, many years, a education reform bill made it out of the Senate Higher Education Committee. It wasn't brought to a vote because certain questions were constantly being asked. It should be our collected effort to take care of those six hundred and ninety-four school districts that are funded at the basic foundation level of five thousand three hundred and thirty-four dollars per year per student. Those children live in all our Senate districts: Belvidere, Cicero, Hazel Crest, Oak Lawn, Calumet City, Chicago Ridge, Country Club Hill {sic}, Elgin, DeKalb, Braceville, Troy, Amboy, Barry, Anna, Cairo, Auburn, Agenda -- Argenta, Dixon, East

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Moline, Astoria, Earlville, Bluffs, Barry, and even the City of Chicago. The top twenty school districts in this State fund the per pupil average between fourteen and twenty-eight thousand dollars a year per child to educate. A child's education in this State should not depend on where that child attends school or where that child is domiciled. Every child -- has -- should have the opportunity to the public dollars to receive a fair and equitable education. Yeah. Yeah. Sixty-two percent of our prisons' inmates in this State are dropouts out of school. If we can pay on the average of twenty-one thousand dollars annually to house one prisoner in the Department of Corrections - more than four times the amount we pay to educate children in seventy-eight percent of our public schools - then we should be able to at least meet the funding foundation level recommendation by the Education Advisory Committee and increase that amount so that we will begin to invest not only in -- today, but we're really investing in the future. But it takes the commitment of the Senate to have the courage to tackle this - to do the right thing. Speaker Madigan and the House, back in 1997, did not ask the question, "What will the Senate do?" The Senate didn't give any guarantee. But in 1997, they did pass out of the House a educational funding reform piece of legislation. So when the question comes up in this Body, I hope we will look at it in that context. We should be the leaders in doing the right thing, not ask the question, "Well, what is the other Chamber going to do?" We should do the right thing. We have an opportunity to teach all the children if we make the commitment to do the job. We must enhance opportunity by also -- by passing a capital bill for our schools across the State of Illinois. Many school districts,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

in all districts, Democrat and Republican - How many Independents we got here? - but they have gone into debt waiting on the State to act. We intend to work together in this Senate and act to make sure we pass the proper bonding legislation so that our schools will have the resources to build and repair dilapidated schools across the State of Illinois. Yeah. Investing in our schools - in our classrooms - sends a strong message to the business community that Illinois will have a ready workforce, a State that prepares children for tomorrow, and a people that believes that education is our best interest today. It is our future when we invest in children. Roads and highways must also be part of the capital program. We must pass a major capital bill to capture the 1.5 billion dollars that Congress passed for the State of Illinois so that we in turn can do the State match and not leave those dollars lay in Washington where they can take it and give it to someone else. So we must pass that. It is our -- my intent or our hope that we can work on a bipartisan manner to see that that legislation pass the Illinois Senate. The third item I feel is -- is of utmost importance - and there are many - and that is the issue of stem cell research. Illinois should be in the forefront. Sometimes I know it may present a moral dilemma for some folks, but stem cell research and all the new ideas that come out of that - what can happen. It may impact your family. It can deal with Alzheimer's, those persons afflicted with diabetes. It can -- it could -- it could solve that problem, health-wise. Illinois should be in the forefront with our colleges and universities and doing the research here. We should be first. Those are issues I'd like to see this Body attack. And our universities across this State, led by the

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

University of Illinois, our -- our -- our -- our flagship university - we must provide the necessary capital needs and also fund them adequately so we can attract and keep good professors to help educate our people in the State of Illinois. Those are the commitments I'd like for us to make in this Session of the -- of the General Assembly. Senator Watson, as my predecessors, Phil Rock, Pate Philip, they always reached out to the Minority Leader. Every day prior to Session - you know, lately I've been getting forgetful and I apologize to you - but they reach out and we sit down and discuss the issues of the day and what we plan to do. I plan to continue what I've done in the past, but even go a step further. And a step further is that we will discuss these critical issues and see how we can, in a bipartisan manner, deal with these issues. Funding of education about schools is not a partisan issue. Having a major capital program should not be a partisan issue. Capital program to take care of our schools across the State of Illinois, capital program to take care of our universities across the State of Illinois, capital program to take care of the roads and bridges should not be a partisan issue. Working collectively together, I hope to accomplish those ends. I look forward to working with you as we move down the road. I thought perhaps I had another Democrat over there, Millner. You -- you were going to become a Chairman. Nothing wrong with that. But I look to work with every Member of this Chamber on behalf of the people of this great State of Illinois. And now I'd like to announce my Leadership team - those individuals whom I will be consulting with, those individuals who help provide the input to give us the proper direction as to where we should go. Debbie Halvorson, my good friend and the



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

great Majority Leader. Debbie Halvorson. And my paisan, Jimmy DeLeo, Assistant Majority Leader. My good friend, Senator Rickey Hendon, Assistant Majority Leader. My high school classmate, Senator -- Senator Lou Viverito, Assistant Majority Leader. So that Debbie Halvorson will not be alone in those meetings, Iris Martinez, a new member, Assistant Majority Leader. And the -- the person, who is the Chairman of many caucuses - you see, now we got another caucus, but he -- he likes being Caucus Chair and so he -- he formed another caucus - and that is my good friend, Terry Link, as Caucus Chair. Senator John Cullerton, Caucus Whip. Senator Donne -- Trotter, Majority Caucus Whip. And the great auctioneer - he promised me when he first got elected, but I'm still waiting, John - and Majority Caucus Whip, John Sullivan. And my good friend from the southern tip of Illinois, Assistant Majority Leader, James Clayborne. Yeah. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Millner, I was going to call your name. The next order of business is the election of the Minority Leader. Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I move that Senator Frank Watson of Greenville be declared Minority Leader of the Senate by acclamation with unanimous consent of this Body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Burzynski moves for -- asks for leave -- Senator Burzynski requests unanimous consent, on behalf of the Republican Members of the Senate, to declare Senator Frank Watson Minority Leader for the 95th General Assembly. Is leave granted? Leave is so granted. Congratulations, Senator Watson. Senator Watson

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

is declared Minority Leader. Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, and congratulations to you once again. And I know it's an awesome responsibility and you've carried yourself well over the last four years as President of this Body and I -- I wish you well and my hand goes out to you once again to work with you as we proceed down the path of solving the issues and the problems of the people of this State. Certainly I want to acknowledge the Governor and the fact that he was here today, I understand he had to leave, but we're glad to have him here and we also want to congratulate... Oh, the Governor's still here. Well, good for you. All right, Governor. You walked out on us last time. You stayed here with us. All right. Good to have you here, Governor. All right. Well, anyway, we're glad to have you here, Governor. Congratulations. We welcome you back to this Body in -- on any occasion. Other Constitutional Officers that are here: Vice -- or Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, and I do appreciate - and I've mentioned that to you this morning, Lieutenant Governor - your concern and the way you've handled yourself with those who serve this country, and especially those who have served and those families who's given the ultimate sacrifice. I appreciate what you have done with that. Our new Treasurer, Alexi Giannoulias. Alexi, thank you very much. It's good to have you here. Congratulations to you. A new energy. Certainly a -- those of you that have not met this man, this young man, he -- he's got a lot of energy and he'll bring good -- good ideas to this system. Certainly Dan Hynes. Welcome back, Dan. I'm glad you got your voice back, I hope, from the other day from the Inauguration. Our Comptroller,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Dan Hynes, thank you for being here. Justice Freeman, thank you. And our Justice Karmeier, Lloyd Karmeier, from southern Illinois. We're proud to have you here also with us. Obviously, I want to make special recognition of my wife, Susan, who's been with me through all these years of serving the people of my area. My wife, Susan. And, you know, there -- there's a -- we're only as good as -- those of us who serve -- and it doesn't matter what you do. I don't care. You could be a pharmacist, which I am. You could be a lawyer. You could be a farmer. It's -- you're only as good as the people you have around you. And I've had -- I've had the privilege of having some really good people and they're here, and I want to acknowledge that. And it -- the one that -- Jo Ann Minks, right here, worked for me for seventeen years as my secretary here in Springfield. She still works for us on contract in the office here, but no longer works as my personal secretary. Nancy Beaty, sitting here next. Nancy. My current secretary. Helen Albert, who runs the Decatur office. My district is Decatur and Greenville and places far beyond. Thank you. But Helen Albert takes care of the Decatur office. Mary Rakers. Mary Rakers works in my Greenville office as long -- along with Judy Schroeter and Marilyn Tischhauser and Marilyn Tischhauser has been with me for so many years we don't even want to talk about it. But they -- but they are, they're good people. They make this life of being a Senator for me very -- very rewarding. It's a very rewarding job being a State Senator and I just appreciate very much them -- their presence. All of you in the gallery -- the family, the friends -- I'm -- I'm glad to see such a good turnout here, and especially the young kids. This is something I think that is important, that we pass this on to our

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

-- our children, the understanding, the importance of self-government and participation. And I'm -- I'm just so glad to see so many of them here. So, thank you. After, by the way, the ceremony today, if -- those of you that would like, you're welcome to be in my office for some cookies and punch and coffee. So just stop by if you -- if you so wish. Senator Jones, you and I, remarkably when you think about it, we took this same Oath of Office January 12th, 1983. That's when I first came here to the Illinois Senate. You and I, now, sir, are the only two who -- who've survived that -- that -- that term, that long -- that long time of being present here in the Illinois Senate. I served four years in the Illinois House prior to that. But this is the first day of the 95th General Assembly, and Senator Radogno and Senator Murphy and Senator Sieben, thank you for the nomination and the eloquent way in which you presented yourself. Thanks to the Members of the Republican Caucus here who've given me the opportunity to once again serve this caucus. It's a privilege and an honor to do so, and I thank you for giving me that opportunity. We will continue to be -- we will reach out our hand in -- in a bipartisan manner, but we will continue to be a vocal Minority when we need to be and that's something I think that is important for us to understand and continue. Senator Jones, once again I want to offer my congratulations to your reelection and it had to be something special to have your granddaughter, Alexia -- or, Alexandria - Alexandria, excuse me - there playing the violin early on. That had to be a special day for you and a special moment for you and we -- our -- our kids are important to us and I know they are to you, especially our grandkids, of which we have none yet, but we'll... I would -- I

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

reach out my hand of friendship, as I always have, cooperation. Like I say, we've been here twenty-four years. We've had some accomplishments. We -- we've worked together on some issues. We differ on some issues. There's no doubt about that. That's the way this system works. It's a give-and-take. We understand on this side of the aisle, we are not the Majority. We're not the Majority, we're the Minority. We don't lead the parade, we don't carry the flag, we don't raise the banner. You establish the agenda, we respond. We will work with you when we can and we will respond when we have to, but I think that's important for us to understand as a Minority. Good things happen, though, in this State, good things happen to the people of Illinois when we work together in a bipartisan manner. And I'm just so -- I'm pleased to hear you talk about bipartisanship, and if you recall, in 1997 I was actually the sponsor of the first school construction grant program. It started in -- after Vince Demuzio, actually was the very first one, back when he first came into office, and then it went for a long period of time in which we didn't have one and we started it again in 1997. I was the sponsor of the Jim Edgar school funding bill that took place in 1997. So we can work together and we will work together and I voted for every single bonding program that this State has offered, and I will continue to do so, before. It just has to be fiscally responsible and I'm willing to work with you and Governor Blagojevich and others to make sure that that takes place. There are a lot of new faces in the Chamber here today and unfortunately not as many on this side as there is on your side, although we've got a few over here now. We could -- we -- you know, I like this idea of them sitting over here. We can work on 'em a little bit. We --well, one thing we

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

have to understand, we have a solid tradition around here. The new Members that we have, we have a solid tradition here. You know, you work hard to get here, but once we're here, we put all that behind us and we work together for the betterment of the people of this State. And that I think we all have to recognize and remember as we move down this path towards trying to solve the issues and the concerns of the people of this State. Each one of us was sent to here by our own constituency. Fifty-nine of us are here - fifty-nine of us. And it's a responsibility we all take very seriously. And speaking as Republicans and, Governor and President Jones, we want to work with you, but we understand there's some real challenges that are facing the people of this State. And from -- we -- we look and we sit, there may be many, actually. We just need to get our fiscal house in order and those -- and I can tell you firsthand as a pharmacist and anyone who's out there that's a Medicaid provider providing services to the less fortunate of this State - hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, pharmacies, whatever it may be, the people that are providing those services - we cannot balance the budget on their backs. And we have to make sure that those people are -- are provided for. The taxpayers deserve to have their money's worth and that's what we need to be doing. The job climate - and, Governor, I was so appreciative of your comments the other day when you talked about the job climate and the growth that we've had in this -- in this State and I appreciate that. But we just need to bring back the manufacturing jobs, those jobs that -- that were -- that pay well and have benefits, and -- and that's the type of work that we need to have. We need to make sure that we do in this State is

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

provide a climate that is conducive for job growth and job creation. And, yes, once again, we need to work together to make the people of this State proud of their State government. We've had some problems over the past and we need to put that behind us and work together. We'll have our -- our political differences, our philosophical differences. Those of you that are here for the first time and new, there is some philosophical differences between that side and this side, and that's okay. There's nothing wrong with that and that's what this is all about. That's what this system -- that's how -- that's how we became this great country that we are. Debate the issues and the people of Illinois will be better served. I've been here, as I said, twenty-four years, four years in the House. I respect this institution. I'm proud of its traditions, and as you say, Senator Jones, this is a beautiful facility here now. We have -- the Chamber is just outstanding. And I'm also proud to be a Member of the 95th General Assembly and we working forward -- look forward to working with all of you. And with that, I'd like to announce my own Republican Leadership team, if I might, Mr. President, for the 95th General Assembly. Senator Dave Luechtefeld, Bill Peterson, Todd Sieben will once again serve as Assistant Senate Minority Leaders. Senator Brad Burzynski will begin his -- new duties as an Assistant Minority Leader. And then we have three new Members of which I'm very proud to be -- that will be joining our leadership: Deputy Minority Leader, Christine Radogno - workhorse, never backs down from a challenge and you will see that and you probably have recognized that as her work in the past here in the -- in the last several years. Caucus Chair will be Dale Righter, who's demonstrated tremendous

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

skills and ability to bring people together. And Minority Whip, Kirk Dillard - brings a wealth of experience in politics and government. So, Mr. President, we all are looking forward -- working with you. The Republican Caucus working with the Democrats to solve the problems of this State, and thank you very much. Appreciate this opportunity. Thank you to the caucus.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Our good friend, former colleague is still here with us, Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, sitting in the back here - an institution within herself. A young man with a very bright future, I -- I missed him earlier, and that is the Treasurer of the State of Illinois, Alexi Giannoulis. Also, our Comptroller of the State - very interested in stem cell - Dan Hynes. It's now my pleasure to present Jonathan Sterling, who will give us a recitation. Jonathan Sterling.

JONATHAN STERLING:

(Remarks and Recitation of "The Gettysburg Address" by Jonathan Sterling)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Also want to thank my long, valued friend, Justice Charles Freeman, for always being here and -- and swearing me in again and my Pastor at my church, Holy Name of Mary, Father Flynn, for also being here once again to give the opening prayer. As I look at my grandkids, Frank, look at your kids, you know, it doesn't seem like twenty years ago that you and I both were freshmen in this Body -- in this Body. And I see my good friend, Tom Hynes, who when I was a freshman, he was my Senator back then, and Dan Hynes was a little boy running around. So, look like we've been around for some time. To give the benediction is Rabbi Leonard



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Matanky from the Congregation Church {sic} in Rogers Park, Chicago, Illinois.

RABBI LEONARD MATANKY:

(Benediction by Rabbi Leonard Matanky)

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Chair now appoint the following Senators to -- to -- to the Committee on Escort for the Governor: Senator Collins, -- Senator Crotty, Senator Bill Haine, Senator Carol -- Pankau, rather, and Senator Dave Syverson. Will you kindly gather at the Well to escort the Governor? The Chair appoints the following Senators to the Committee on Escort and those Committee Members are to escort the Judiciary from the Chamber: Senator Deanna Demuzio, Senator Iris Martinez, Senator James Meeks, Senator Randy Hultgren and Senator Matt Murphy. Will those Committee on Escort please come forward to escort the distinguished Members of the Judiciary from the Chamber? As has been the custom, it is the intention of the Chair to begin organizing the 95th General Assembly under the rules of the 95th {sic} General Assembly until new rules are adopted as part of the organization of this newly constituted General Assembly. Madam Secretary, do you have any messages?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the President, dated January 10, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-5, please be advised that I have appointed the following Senators to serve on the Senate Rules Committee: Senators Debbie Halvorson, Chairman; Rickey Hendon and Louis Viverito. These appointments are effective immediately.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

I have another Message from the Senate Republican Leader.

Dear Madam Secretary - also dated January 10, 2007 - Pursuant to the temporary Senate rules of the 95th General Assembly, I hereby appoint Senator Christine Radogno to serve as the Minority Spokesperson of the Senate Rules Committee and Senator Dale Righter to serve as a member of the Committee. These appointments are effective immediately.  
Sincerely, Frank Watson, Senate Republican Leader.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam Secretary, do you have any resolutions on file?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes, I have Senate Resolutions 1 and 2, offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Senate will stand at ease to allow our guests to exit the Chambers. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the Anteroom. The Senate will stand at ease for fifteen minutes. The Members are asked to please remain at your seats or in your seats.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Senate will come to order. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Halvorson, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Resolutions 1 and 2.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Calendar has been distributed and on the Calendar is Senate Resolution No. -- No. 1. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution No. 1, offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

(Secretary reads SR No. 1)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson, read -- explain the resolution.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Normally this resolution would just be a reelection of those who are already there. This year we have a couple of changes, and I personally want to welcome Deborah Shipley to the position of Secretary of the Senate. I know, as she starts her new position, we are all going to be so proud of her being here and to fill the big shoes that Linda Hawker has left for her to do. So, other than the new Secretary of the Senate Deborah Shipley, we also have Jillayne Rock, who will temporarily take the Sergeant-of-Arms position, and then we have Scott Kaiser as Assistant Secretary of the Senate and Tracey Sidles as our Assistant Sergeant-of-Arms.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator -- Senator Halvorson has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 1. Is there any -- any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 1. All those in favor will signify by saying Aye. Opposed... All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. All those in favor of the

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

resolution, signify by voting Aye. All those in favor, signify by voting Aye. All those in favor, vote Aye. Take the record. On that question, there are 58 voting Yea, 1 voting Nay -- 0 Nay, no one voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 1, receiving the required constitutional majority, is declared adopted. I'm sorry, Senator, the book was covering things. Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I was going to speak passionately in behalf of that motion and I see it probably wasn't necessary that I do that. Actually, I just want to recognize Tracey Sidles. Tracey is -- step out here Tracey wherever you are. He's been the longest serving either Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms or Sergeant-of-Arms in the history of the Senate and I just think we ought to recognize that. He does great work for us. The last -- the last -- I believe he's been worked a little harder here the last couple of weeks and taking on a little more responsibility and we appreciate both our Sergeant-at-Arms' work, but especially on this side. Thank you, Tracey, for what you've done and what you do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

I tried to vote Aye and the -- it wouldn't record, so could I be recorded as an Aye on that? There was one non-voting. That was me, because it wouldn't register.

PRESIDENT JONES:

The record shall so reflect, Senator. On the Order of Resolutions is Senate Resolution No. 2. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution No. 2, offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

(Secretary reads, in part, Senate Resolution No. 2)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson, explain the resolution.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

...President, it's customary that we adopt our rules. There are just a few minor changes that I'd like to explain at this time. First, the rules replace the term "perfunctory session day" with the term "perfunctory session". This change reflects the customary and legal fact that there is no conflict between the scheduling of -- perfunctory sessions and the scheduling of a regular veto or special session days. This change just makes it easier when doing paperwork upon adjournment. Second, we will be addressing the inconsistency in our rules on an esoteric matter regarding attendance. So, basically, when you talk about a quorum or a member of the -- person compelling people to come to Session, where -- in -- in our rules, we're just clarifying it. It currently says that somebody from the Minority Party, if there's just one person there, they can compel the remaining people to come to Springfield. Basically, we're leaving in there that the Senate President can continue to compel people to Springfield. But -- but it's -- it's just kind of making that inconsistency more easier to understand. Third, we will be addressing emerging issues in a more efficient way and we have split two committees. We've split the Judiciary Committee into one for Civil Law and the other one for Criminal Law. The Health and Human Services will also be in two committees - one for Human

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Services and one for Public Health. In addition to that, we will be changing the name of State Government to State Government and Veterans Affairs. This change will highlight the work that these committees are dedicated to perform. Finally, there are just several small, technical changes that we missed two years ago, and as you will see, it's just merely some cleanup language. With that said, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator -- Senator Halvorson moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 2. Is there any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to ask just a couple questions in a couple basic areas. First, though, on behalf of the Members of our side of the aisle, we'd like to welcome the new Madam Secretary of the Senate to her new duties. It's good to have you here. Mr. President, will the sponsor yield, please?

PRESIDENT JONES:

She indicates she will.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Halvorson, I mean, we've discussed this a little bit previously and I'd just like to put this before all the Members. First, the change with regards to who may, according to the rules, and who may not compel the attendance of a Member. It's my understanding that that change is made based on the recognition that a minority, which doesn't have a quorum in the first place, wouldn't have the ability to compel an individual Member's attendance and that's the reason that language is being struck. Is that correct?

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter. Senator Halvorson.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Righter, that is correct. A minority, not necessarily - and thanks for clearing that up - a minority amount of people don't have a quorum so they can't conduct business.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Last question has to do with the change with perfunctory and perfunctory day. It's my understanding that's being done because there will be times at which the Senate will need to meet in a perfunctory fashion before -- in the morning before Members are seated. And so rather than limiting it to the rest of that day, you may want to carry it over into the morning before the General Assembly comes back. Is that correct?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Yes. That is correct.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Are there any further questions? Any further questions? Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 2. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 59 voting Aye, no Nays, and

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

-- no one voting Present. The Resolution No. 2, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Are there any further resolutions? We are now operating under the rules of the 95th General Assembly. Madam Secretary, are there any further Messages?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I have a letter from Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President, dated January 10th, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-5, please be advised that I have appointed the following Senators to serve on the Senate Rules Committee: Senator Debbie Halvorson, Chairman; Senator Rickey Hendon, Senator Louis Viverito. These appointments are effective immediately.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Okay. The Senate will stand at ease for...

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I also have a letter from Frank Watson, Senator -- Senate Republican Leader, dated January 10th, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to the Senate Rules adopted on January 10th, 2007, I hereby appoint Senator Christine Radogno to serve as Minority Spokesperson of the Senate Rules Committee and Senator Dale Righter to serve as a member of the Committee. These appointments are effective immediately.

Sincerely, Frank Watson, Senate Republican Leader.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam Secretary, are there any further resolutions on file?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes, Mr. President. I have Senate Resolutions 3, 4 and 5,



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Okay. The -- the Senate will stand at ease for just a couple minutes. Please do not leave the Floor. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the Anteroom, and we will stand at ease for just a few moments.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Okay. The Senate will come to order. Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Halvorson, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Resolutions 3, 4 and 5.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Supplemental Calendar No. 1 has been distributed. On the Supplemental Calendar is Senate Resolution No. 3. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 3, offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

(Secretary reads SR No. 3)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson, explain the resolution.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution No. 3 directs the Secretary of the Senate to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has organized and we're ready to

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

proceed with business. I ask for your Aye vote.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson has moved for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 3. Is there any discussion? Senator Althoff.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. A point of personal privilege. Thank you, sir. I know today is an extremely important day for each and every one of us, particularly those of you who are being sworn in for the first time, but it's also a very important day for one of my Senate Republican colleagues. Today is Senator Risinger's birthday. So he has a double celebration. May we take a moment and wish him well?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Seeing -- seeing no further discussion, if not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 3. All those in favor will signify -- by voting Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 59 voting Aye, no Nays, no -- none voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 3, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, Senate Resolution No. 4. Read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution No. 4, offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

(Secretary reads SR No. 4)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson, explain the resolution.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. As was said, Senate Resolution 4 requires the Secretary of the Senate to prepare each day an exact transcript of the Journal and have copies printed. I ask for your Aye vote.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 4. Is -- is there any -- any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall Senate Resolution {sic} adopt Senate Resolution No. 4. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 59 voting Aye, no Nays, no -- none voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 4, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Resolution -- No. 5, Madam Secretary. Read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 5, offered by Senators Halvorson, Hendon and Viverito.

(Secretary reads SR No. 5)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson, explain the resolution.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 5, as was said, appoints the Steering Committee on Correspondents {sic} (Standing Committee of Correspondents). This is a committee of our friends from the press who are charged with establishing rules governing their code of behavior in this Chamber. I ask for your Aye vote.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 5. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 5. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On -- on that question, there are 58 voting Aye, none voting Present, no one -- no Nays. Senate Resolution No. 5, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, Introduction of Bills.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Bill 1, offered by Senator Emil Jones, Jr.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 2, offered by Senator Emil Jones, Jr.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

Senate Bill 3, offered by Emil -- Senator Emil Jones, Jr.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

And Senate Bill 4, sponsored by Senator Emil Jones, Jr.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bills.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT JONES:

You requesting a caucus?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Oh, yes, sir. Thank you very much. I didn't realize we

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

were that close to the end of our business. It's my understanding, Mr. President, that we'll be... Yeah, that's right. That's right. We request a Senate Republican Caucus tomorrow morning at 9 a.m., Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yeah. If I can ask an inquiry of Senator Righter. Senator Righter, where are you going to have the Republican Caucus tomorrow morning?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you for following up, Senator Cullerton. The caucus will be in -- held in Senator Watson's office.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Suggestion. You know a lot of times in politics when you have a party, you kind of book a smaller room to make it look like you got more people. So, just a suggestion.

PRESIDENT JONES:

If there is no further business to be discussed, the Senate will stand adjourned till the hour of 10 a.m., Thursday, January 11th. The Senate stands adjourned.